

**Remarks**

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 10-18 are pending.

**Election/Restrictions**

The Examiner restricted the claims to the following two groups and required Applicants to elect one group of claims for prosecution:

I. Claim 1, 2, 4-8, and 10-12 drawn to methods of screening for compounds that reduce bone deterioration.

II. Claims 13-18 drawn to a method of screening for compounds that increase bone mineral density.

Applicant elects without traverse the claims of group II, claims 13-18.

The Examiner further required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 the Applicant to elect *in vitro* or *in vivo* as the screening method for use in the claimed method. In reply, Applicant elects without traverse *in vitro* screening.

**Conclusion**

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (651-207-8270) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date Feb. 28, 2006

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient first class postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this day March 1, 2006.

  
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Hugh McTavish